

STARBLAZER

SPACE FICTION ADVENTURE IN PICTURES No. 47

14p



THE ANDROMEDA INCIDENT



STARBLADE



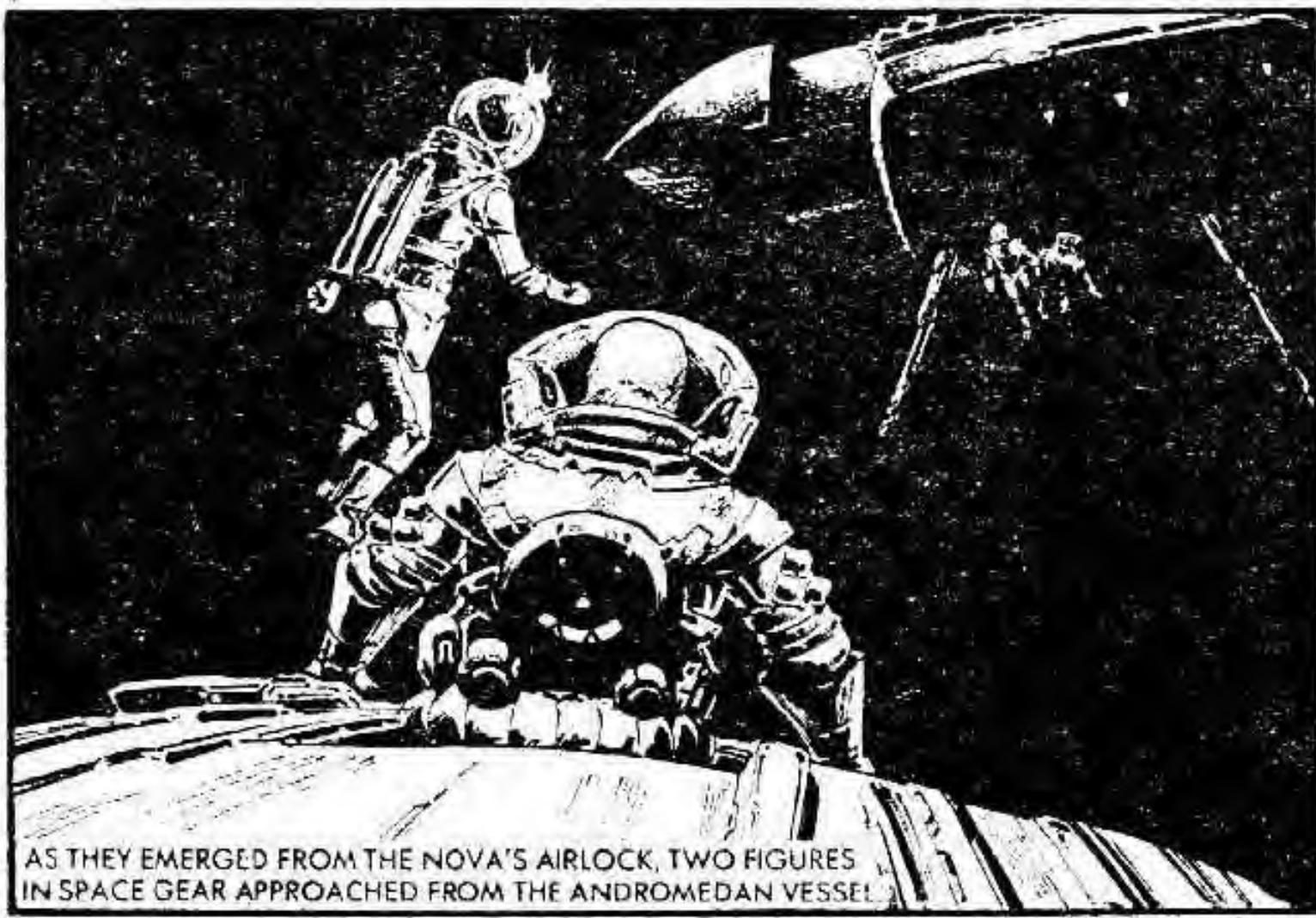
THE FIRST INTERGALACTIC WAR BETWEEN THE EARTH FEDERATION AND THE ANDROMEDAN EMPIRE ENDED IN AN UNEASY TRUCE. IN THE LAST MONTHS OF THE WAR THE NOTED EARTH SCIENTIST PROFESSOR BEN HERSCHEL INVENTED THE 'HERSCHEL SHIELD' ARRAY OF ELECTROMAGNETIC FORCE FIELDS. AN ANDROMEDAN RAIDING FORCE CAPTURED HERSCHEL'S SPACESHIP AND HE WAS MADE A PRISONER OF THE EMPIRE. THE ANDROMEDAN SUPREME COMMANDER, ALGIS, WHO HAD BEEN CAPTURED WAS TO BE EXCHANGED FOR HERSCHEL.

THE ANDROMEDA INCIDENT

ONE SHIP FROM EACH SIDE MET IN EMPTY SPACE, MID-WAY BETWEEN THE TWO GALAXIES. FEDERATION AGENT JOHN QUINN UNDERTOOK THE MISSION ALONE IN HIS SCOUT SHIP NOVA.

QUINN TO ANDROMEDA VESSEL . . . I AM COMING ACROSS WITH THE PRISONER





AS THEY EMERGED FROM THE NOVA'S AIRLOCK, TWO FIGURES
IN SPACE GEAR APPROACHED FROM THE ANDROMEDAN VESSEL.

THE TWO SIDES FACED EACH OTHER.



AS SOON AS HERSCHEL REACHED HIM, QUINN WASTED NO TIME IN HEADING BACK TO NOVA.

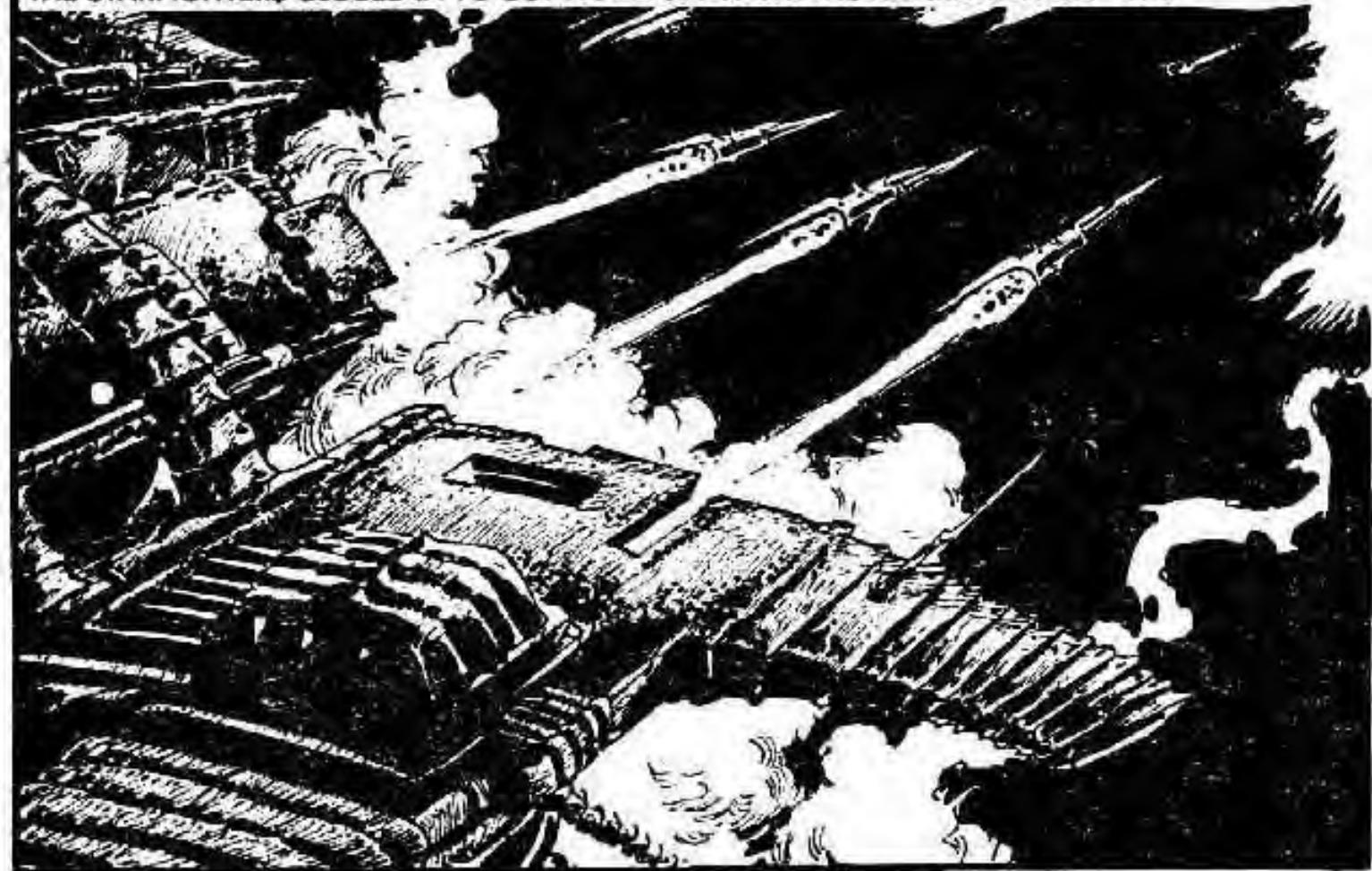


A MIGHTY ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP APPEARED FROM NOWHERE



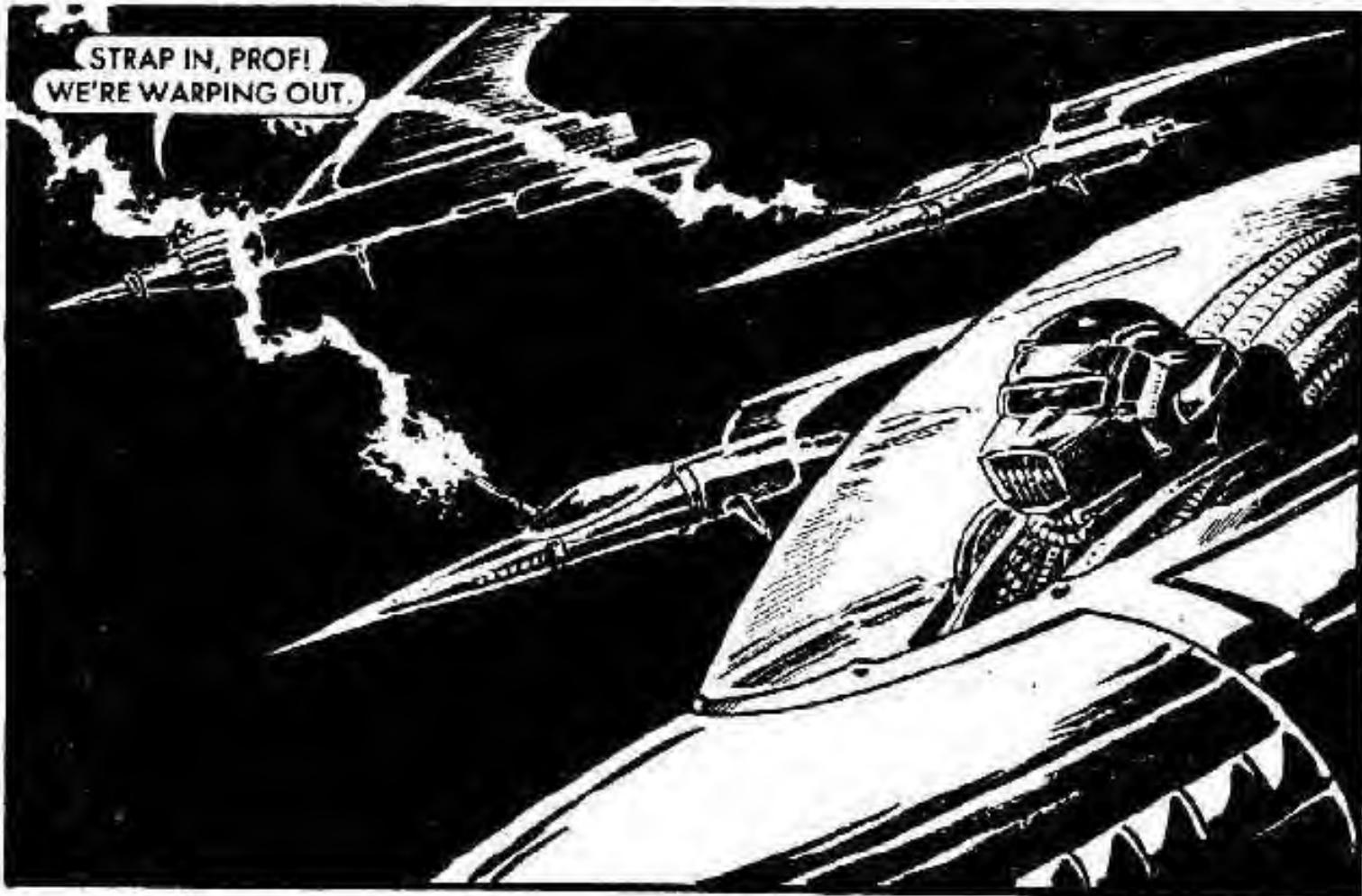


THE STARFIGHTERS CLOSED IN TO CUT NOVA OFF FROM THE FEDERATION GALAXY.





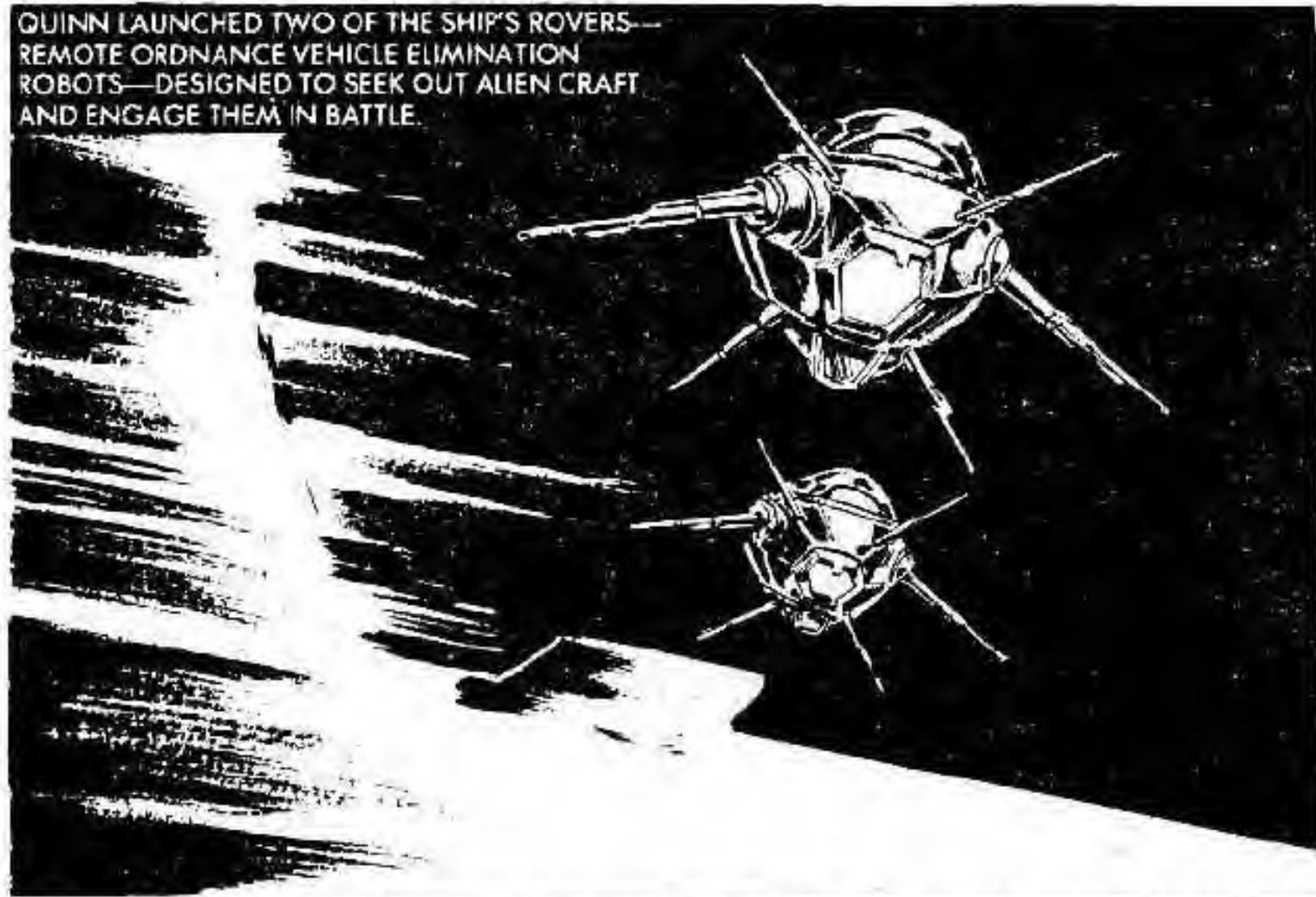
IT'S NO GOOD! THE PHOTON
CANNON ARE NEUTRALISED. THE
WARSHIP MUST BE GENERATING
ONE OF YOUR SHIELDS, HERSCHEL.



WE'VE GOT THE EDGE ON
THE WARSHIP FOR
ACCELERATION. IF WE
CAN KEEP OFF THE STAR-
FIGHTERS FOR LONG
ENOUGH, WE MAY BE ABLE
TO LOSE THEM IN THAT
STAR CLUSTER AHEAD.

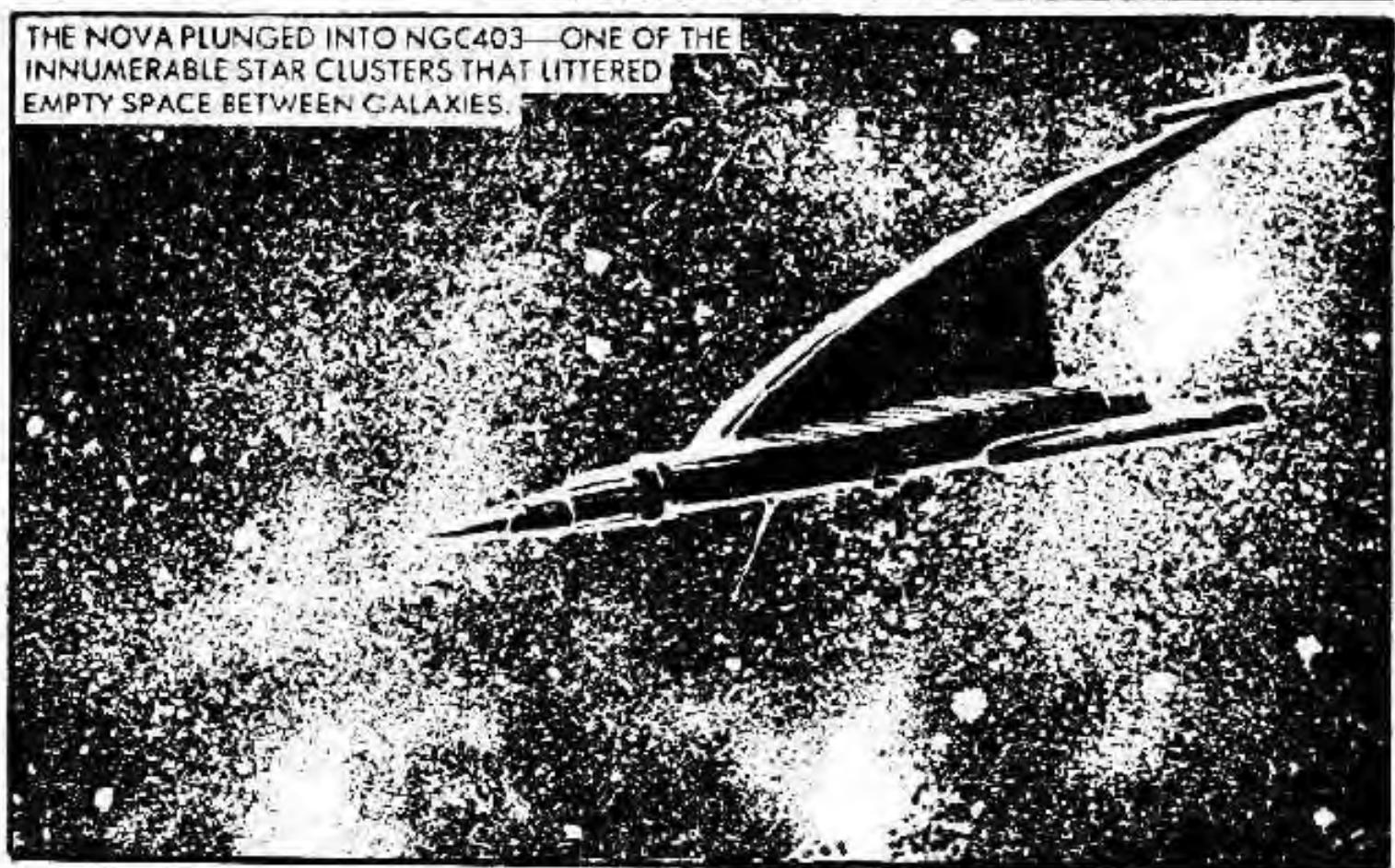


QUINN LAUNCHED TWO OF THE SHIP'S ROVERS—
REMOTE ORDNANCE VEHICLE ELIMINATION
ROBOTS—DESIGNED TO SEEK OUT ALIEN CRAFT
AND ENGAGE THEM IN BATTLE.



ALTHOUGH THE ROVERS' CANNON WERE NEUTRALISED, THEY SET OUT ON COLLISION COURSES.







THERE MUST BE A BLACK HOLE AT THE CENTRE OF
THE STAR CLUSTER . . . AND WE'RE BEING PULLED
RIGHT INTO IT!



THE STARFIGHTER
HAS CAUGHT US UP.



THE SHIP IS STILL
NOT RESPONDING!



AS QUINN FOUGHT TO OVERCOME THE DEADLY PULL
OF THE BLACK HOLE, THE STARFIGHTER OPENED FIRE.



WE'RE HIT! I'LL HAVE
TO USE THE LAST ROVER.

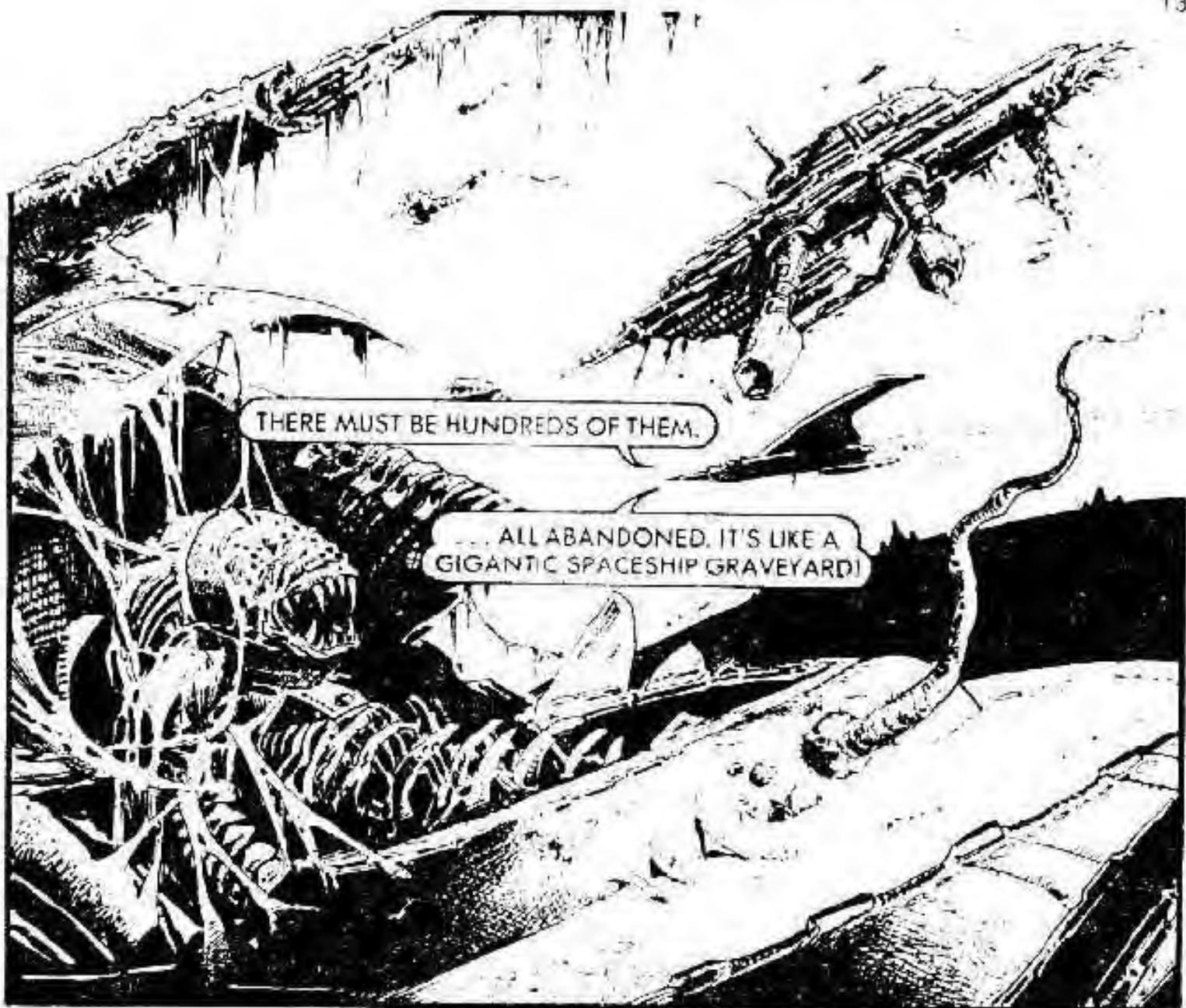


ENGINE'S DEAD.
WE'RE IN A SPIN.

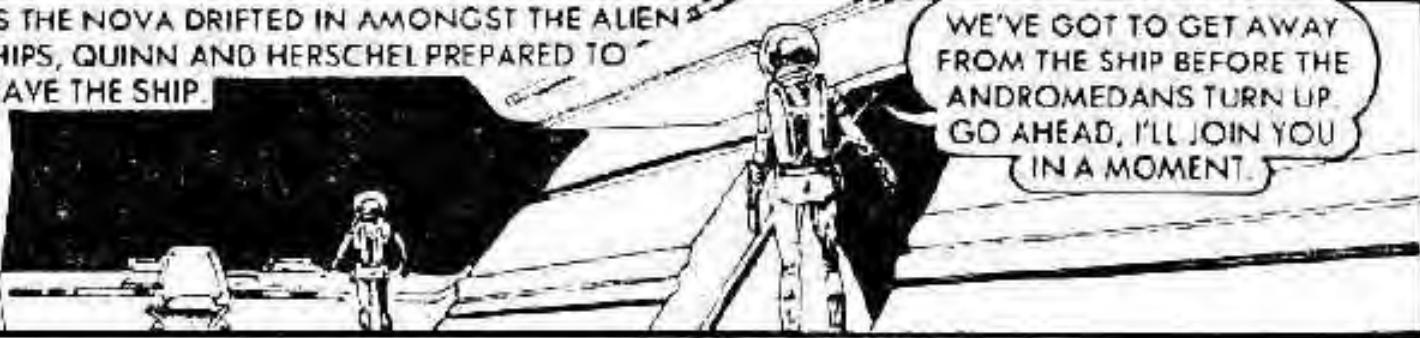
THE NOVA DRIFTED TOWARDS THE CENTRE OF THE CLUSTER.

LOOK OUT THERE...





AS THE NOVA DRIFTED IN AMONGST THE ALIEN SHIPS, QUINN AND HERSCHEL PREPARED TO LEAVE THE SHIP.



WE'VE GOT TO GET AWAY FROM THE SHIP BEFORE THE ANDROMEDANS TURN UP. GO AHEAD, I'LL JOIN YOU IN A MOMENT.



NOW WHAT?

COME AND GIVE ME A HAND WITH THIS, WILL YOU?



WHAT IS IT?

PERSONAL BATTLE ROBOT —CODE-NAME MOBCOM. IT'S A MOBILE FIGHTING COMPUTER AND VERY POWERFUL. WITH ONLY MY HANDGUN BETWEEN US, WE'RE GOING TO NEED HIM IF THE ANDROMEDANS CATCH UP WITH US.

QUINN PULLED THE ROBOT FREE OF THE SHIP AND ACTIVATED THE POWER PACK.

THE ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP HAD REACHED THE EDGE OF THE STAR CLUSTER.



WE CAN GO NO FARTHER, COMMANDER ALGIS,
OR WE WILL BE TORN APART IN THE GRAVITY
FIELD.

SEND IN STAR TROOPS!
I WANT QUINN CAPTURED!



THEY PASSED THROUGH THE AIRLOCK INTO THE CRUISER'S CONTROL ROOM.

THERE'S A BREATHABLE ATMOSPHERE.
THE SHIP'S POWER PLANT MUST BE
INTACT.

QUINN BEGAN TO SEARCH FOR A WAY DOWN INTO THE REST OF THE SHIP.

THERE MUST BE A HATCH BEHIND
ALL THIS JUNK SOMEWHERE.

WHAT ARE THESE BUTTONS FOR?

DON'T TOUCH... TOO LATE! THAT'S THE
LANDING BEAMS. THE ANDROMEDANS WILL SEE
THEM!





DEEP INSIDE THE DERELICT CRAFT.



BUT IT WAS THE ANDROMEDANS WHO HAD FOUND ANOTHER WAY IN.



IN HERE, QUICK.
COVER US, MOBCOM.



AS SOON AS THEY WERE THROUGH THE HATCHWAY, QUINN JAMMED THE LOCK MECHANISM.

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THAT SHOULD KEEP THEM OUT FOR
A WHILE.

WHAT IS THIS PLACE?

THAT LOOKS LIKE A CONTROL
PANEL OF SOME KIND.

IT SEEMS TO BE SOME SORT OF
SHORT RANGE TRANSMITTER. IT'S
ALREADY LOCKED ONTO
SOMETHING ... WHAT?

WHAT'S HAPPENING?



SECONDS LATER, THEY FOUND THEMSELVES IN A DIFFERENT ROOM.



QUINN ACTIVATED ONE OF THE WALL SCREENS AND TURNED TO HERSCHEL IN DISBELIEF.



WE'RE NOT JUST IN ANOTHER ROOM, PROF . . . WE'VE JUMPED CLEAR ACROSS SPACE TO THE OTHER SIDE OF THE CLUSTER!

IT'S A PARTICLE TRANSMITTER! IT MUST HAVE BEEN USED TO TRANSMIT CREW AND MATERIALS BETWEEN SHIPS.



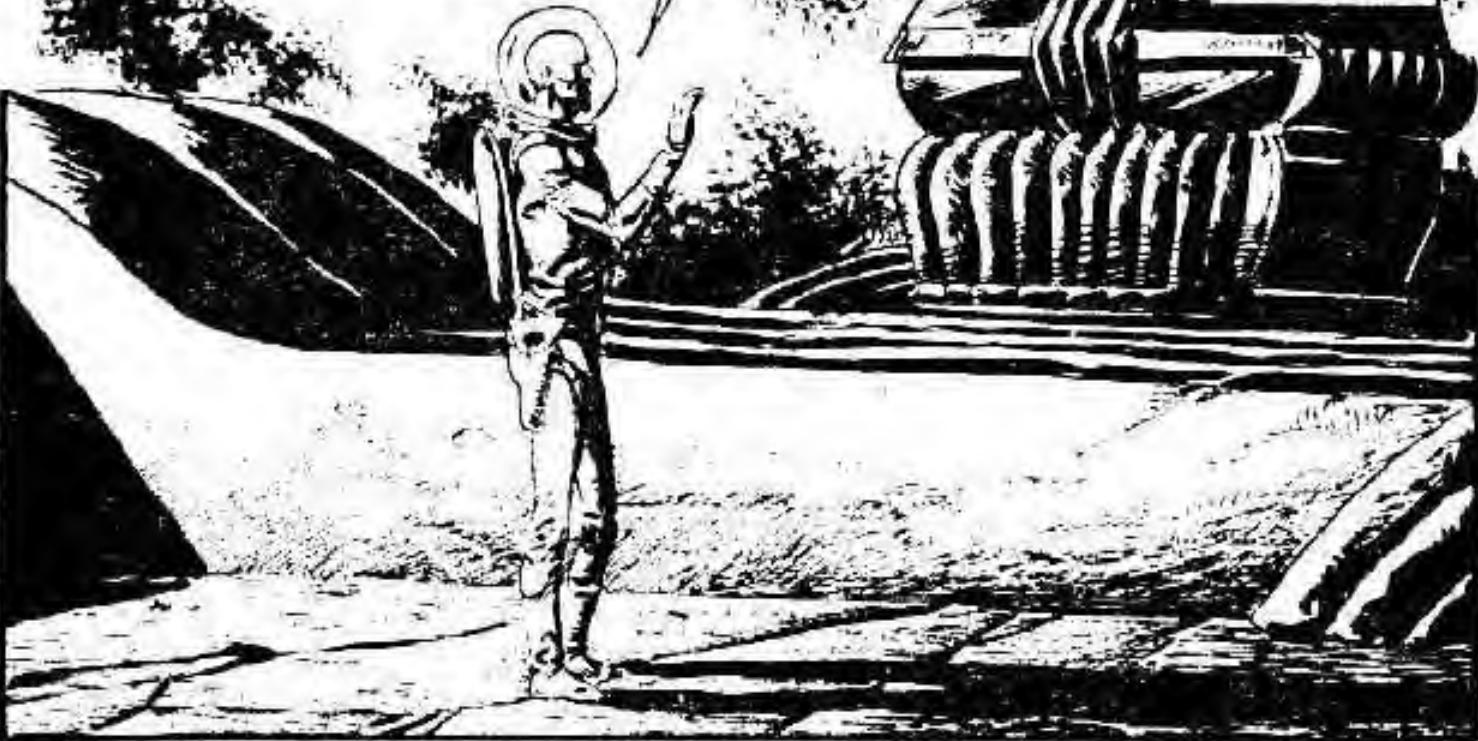
QUINN TURNED OFF THE POWER TO PREVENT THE ANDROMEDANS FOLLOWING THEM THROUGH THE TRANSMITTER, THEN THEY WENT IN SEARCH OF THE SHIP'S CONTROL TOWER.



AS SOON AS HE GOT OUTSIDE, QUINN OPENED UP HIS PRIVATE RADIO LINK TO MOBCOM.

CODE HYDRA, MOBCOM.
WATCH OUT FOR TROUBLE.

AFFIRMATIVE.



IN THE ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP.

MY TROOPS REPORT THAT THE
EARTHMAN CANNOT BE FOUND,
THEY ARE NO LONGER ABOARD THE
ALIEN CRUISER.

TELL YOUR TROOPS TO CONTINUE
THE SEARCH. WE MUST WAIT FOR
ANOTHER SIGNAL.



QUINN DID NOT TAKE LONG TO CHECK OUT THE SHUTTLECRAFT.

THE DRIVE CELLS ARE ALL EXHAUSTED. PROF, IS THERE ANY WAY WE CAN RECHARGE THEM?

MOBCOM HERE. HERSCHEL HAS JUST ATTEMPTED TO SET OFF THE LANDING SIGNALS AGAIN. I HAVE DESTROYED THE CONTROLS, HE . . .

THERE WILL NO LONGER BE ANY NEED, QUINN—YOU ARE TOO LATE . . .

QUINN RAN BACK TO THE CONTROL TOWER AND LET HIMSELF INTO THE AIRLOCK.



MOBCOM'S POWER-PACK HAS BEEN
BLASTED . . . BUT HOW?

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LIKE THIS, EARTHMAN!









THE PARTICLE TRANSMITTER WENT INTO OVERLOAD
AND THE ANDROID WAS TORN APART IN ITS BEAM.



GONE... TRANSMITTED INTO PIECES
AND SCATTERED THROUGH SPACE.
NOW, BACK TO THE CONTROL
TOWER.



THE POWER PACK'S COMPLETELY
BURNED OUT... THERE MUST BE
SOMETHING I CAN USE ABOARD THIS
HULK TO FIX IT.



WHILST QUINN CARRIED OUT A SYSTEMATIC SEARCH OF THE ALIEN VESSEL, THE ANDROMEDAN TROOPS WERE DRAWING CLOSER.



THIS LOOKS LIKE THE COMMUNICATIONS
CENTRE. I WONDER ...

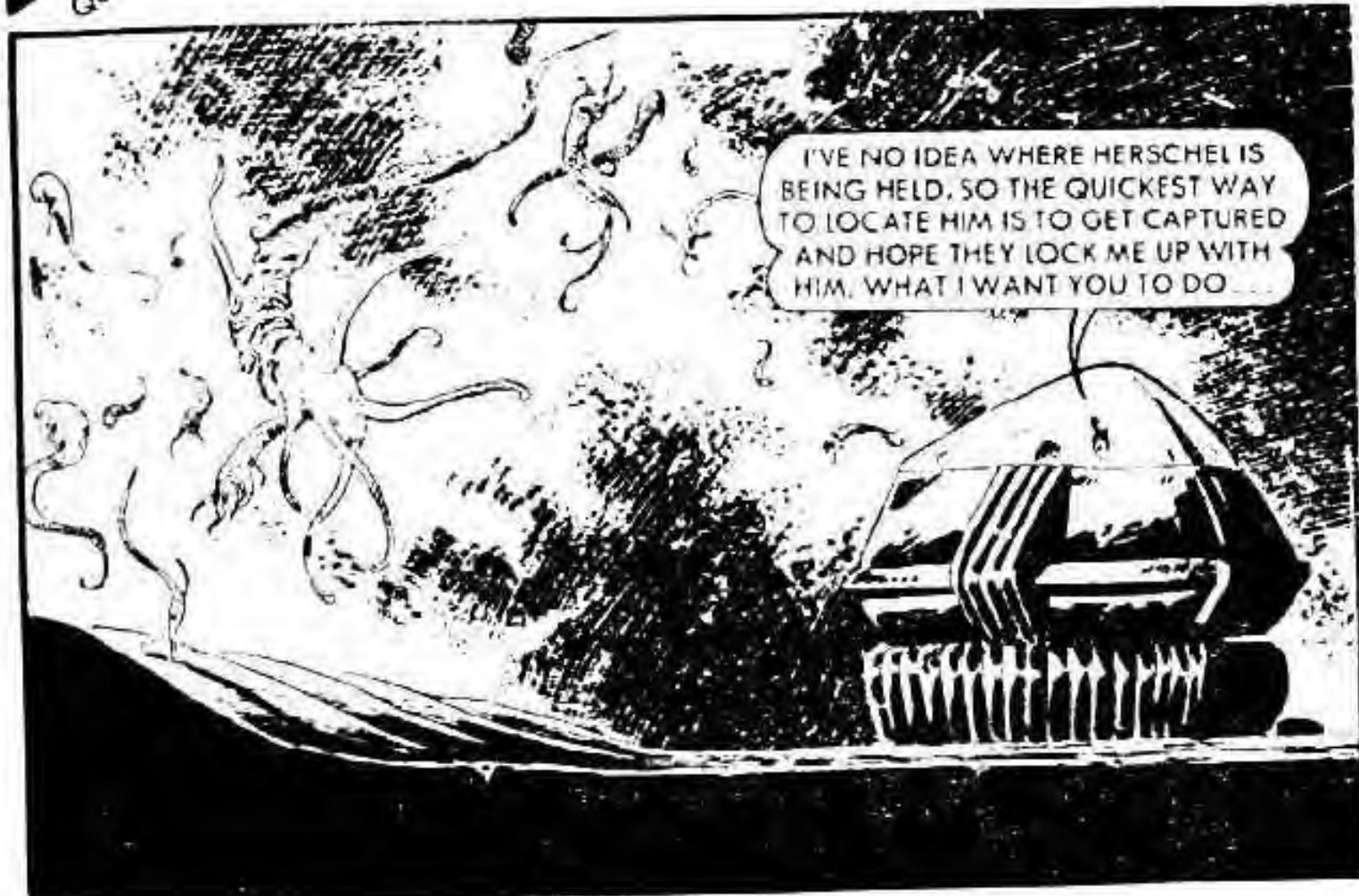
A SUB-SPACE
TRANSMITTER! STILL WORKING,
TOO ... LET'S SEE IF I CAN FIGURE
OUT HOW TO RECORD A
MESSAGE.

QUINN FED HIS MESSAGE INTO
THE DIGITAL MEMORY BANK.

NOW IT SHOULD CONTINUE
TO BROADCAST ON AUTOMATIC.

QUINN CONTINUED SEARCHING.









QUINN LAUNCHED HIMSELF OUT OF THE SHADOW OF THE WRECK.

THE EARTHTMAN! GET AFTER HIM!







QUINN WAS CARRIED TO THE ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP.



WHEN HE REGAINED CONSCIOUSNESS HE FOUND HIMSELF IN THE CONTROL CENTRE.

SO WE MEET ONCE MORE, QUINN.
ONLY THIS TIME OUR ROLES ARE
REVERSED.

HOW EXTREMELY UNPLEASANT
TO SEE YOU AGAIN, ALGIS.

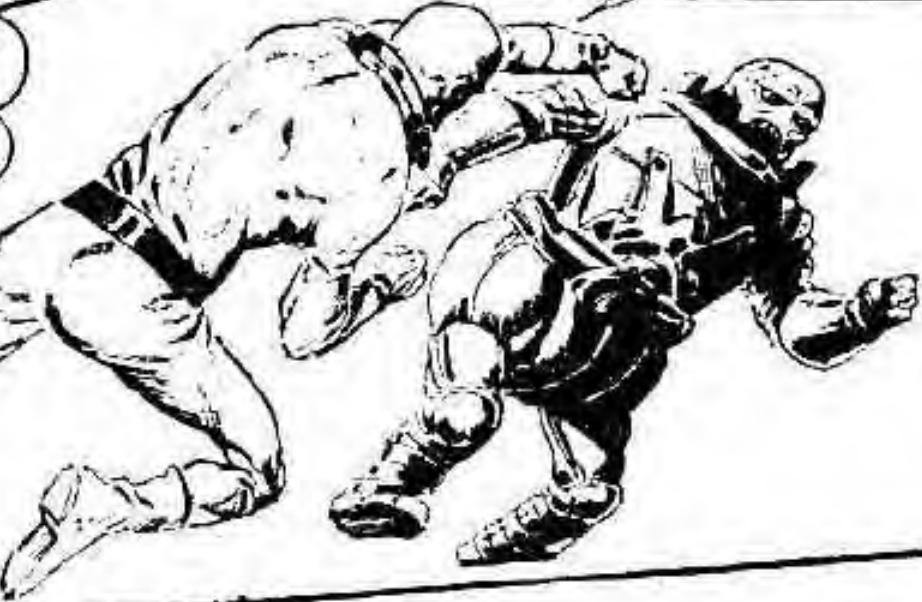


YOU WILL LEARN TO CURB YOUR TONGUE, EARTHTMAN. NOW, WHERE IS HERSCHEL AND THAT AMUSING LITTLE ROBOT OF YOURS?



THAT AMUSING LITTLE ROBOT AS YOU CALL IT IS DESTROYED, AND SO IS HERSCHEL... IF IT IS YOUR AMUSING LITTLE ANDROID YOU ARE REFERRING TO.

WHERE'S THE REAL HERSCHEL, YOU MURDERER?

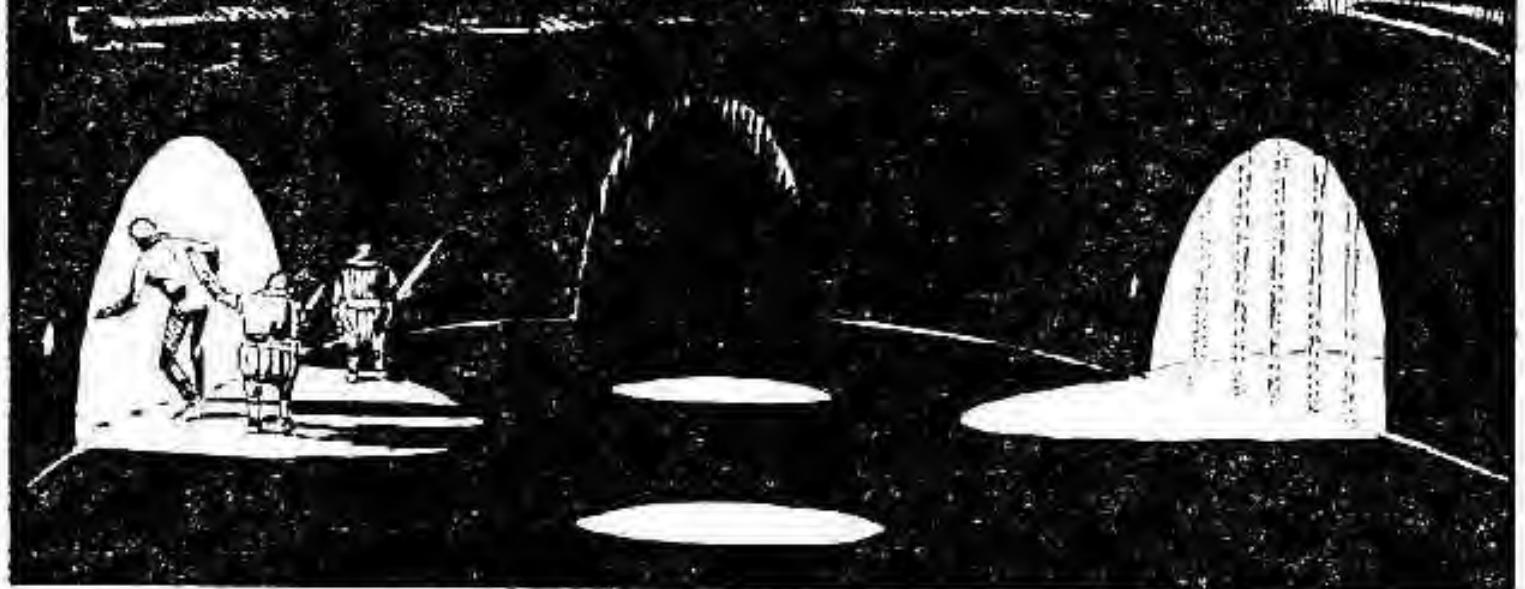


YOU WILL DIE VERY SLOWLY FOR THAT, EARTHTMAN. TAKE HIM AWAY.





QUINN WAS TAKEN TO A SECURITY DECK AND THROWN INTO ONE OF THE CELLS.



ONE OF THE GUARDS SWITCHED ON A CONTROL ON THE WALL AND THE CELL DOORWAY LIT UP.



QUINN WAITED UNTIL THE GUARDS HAD GONE, THEN THREW HIMSELF AT THE DOORWAY . . .

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VERY EFFECTIVE.

HELLO THERE. CAN YOU HEAR ME?

BEN HERSCHEL! IT'S JOHN QUINN HERE. THE FEDERATION SENT ME TO EXCHANGE YOU FOR ALGIS.

I SAW THE DOUBLE-CROSS TAKE PLACE. I WAS BEING FORCED TO WORK ON THE NEW NEUTRALISING SHIELD AT THE TIME. THEY DRAGGED ME OFF IT BEFORE I COULD SABOTAGE IT TO HELP YOU.

QUINN TOOK A SMALL PENCIL TRANSMITTER FROM HIS SPACE BOOT.



IN THE ALIEN CRUISER, MOBCOM RECEIVED THE TRANSMISSION ON HIS BUILT-IN RADIO.

AFFIRMATIVE. I
AM RECEIVING YOU.

GOOD. LOCK ONTO
MY TRANSMISSION.

QUINN FELT THE DECK TREMBLE SLIGHTLY.

WHAT WAS THAT?

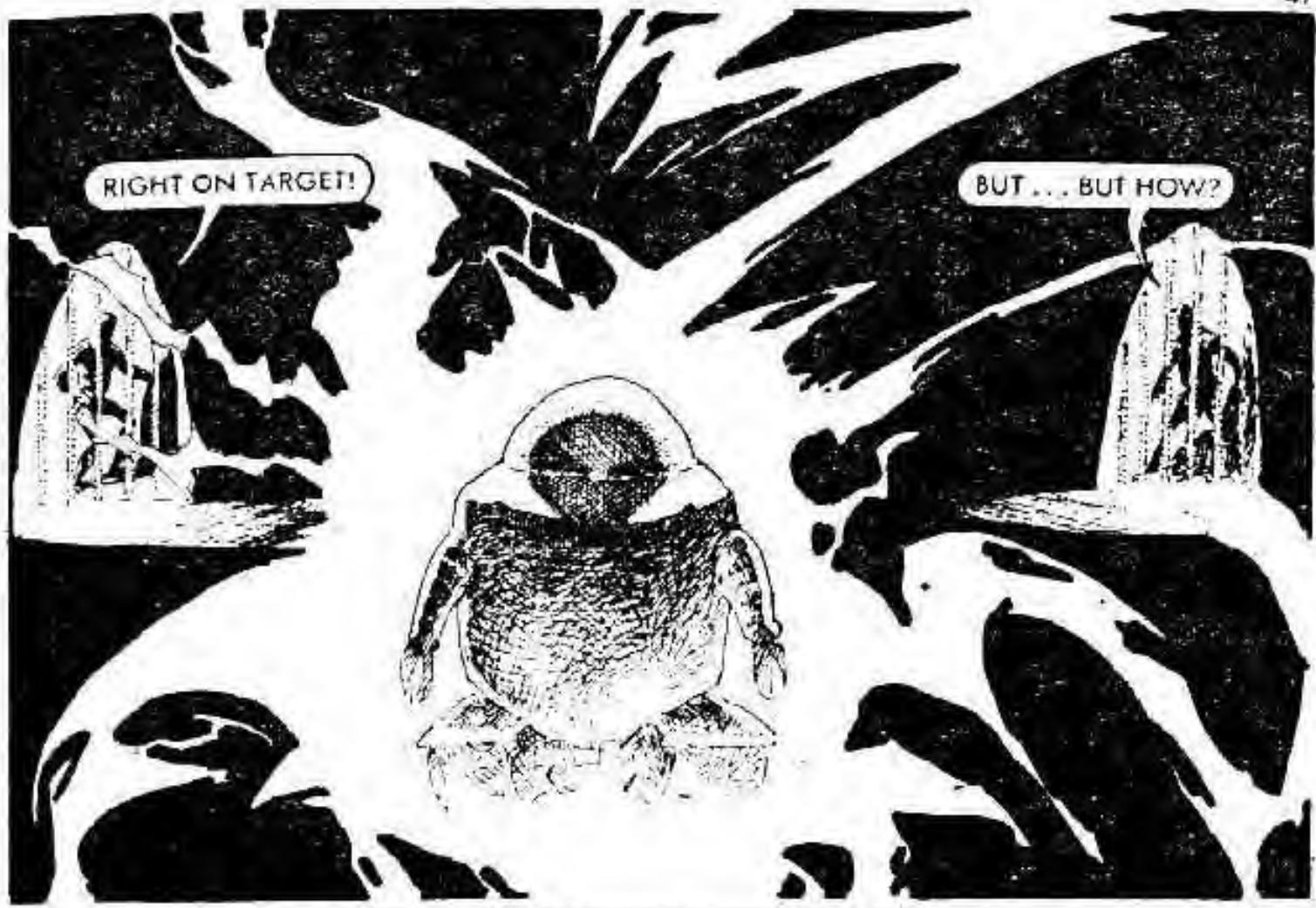
THE ENGINES—WE MUST
BE GETTING UNDERWAY.

QUICK MOBCOM! LOCK ONTO
MY SIGNAL AND TRANSMIT
YOURSELF ABOARD BEFORE
WE GET OUT OF RANGE!

ACKNOWLEDGED.



IN THE ALIEN CRUISER, MOBCOM BEGAN TO DEMATERIALISE.



IMMEDIATELY AN ALARM WENT OFF ON THE CONTROL DECK







MAKE FOR THE NEAREST STAR-FIGHTER—AND PRAY THAT IT'S FUELLED UP AND READY FOR TAKE OFF!



MOBCOM, BURN THE DOORS!



BUT I CAN'T LEAVE THE
NEUTRALISING SHIELD—
IT'S THE ONLY
PROTOTYPE.

UNDER THE FULL POWER OF MOBCOM'S BLASTER
A JAGGED HOLE APPEARED IN THE OUTER DOORS
AND THE ATMOSPHERE IN THE HANGAR BEGAN
TO RUSH OUT INTO SPACE.

WE MUST GET IN THERE
BEFORE THE WHOLE DECK
DEPRESSURISES!

QUINN, HERSCHEL AND MOBCOM
CLIMBED INTO THE STARFIGHTER AS
THE ANDROMEDAN TROOPS WERE
SUCKED INTO THE VACUUM OF
SPACE.

HANG ON, THIS IS
GOING TO BE ROUGH!

THE STARFIGHTER LIFTED AND SHOT OUT INTO SPACE.



WE MADE IT!



ARE WE CLEAR YET?

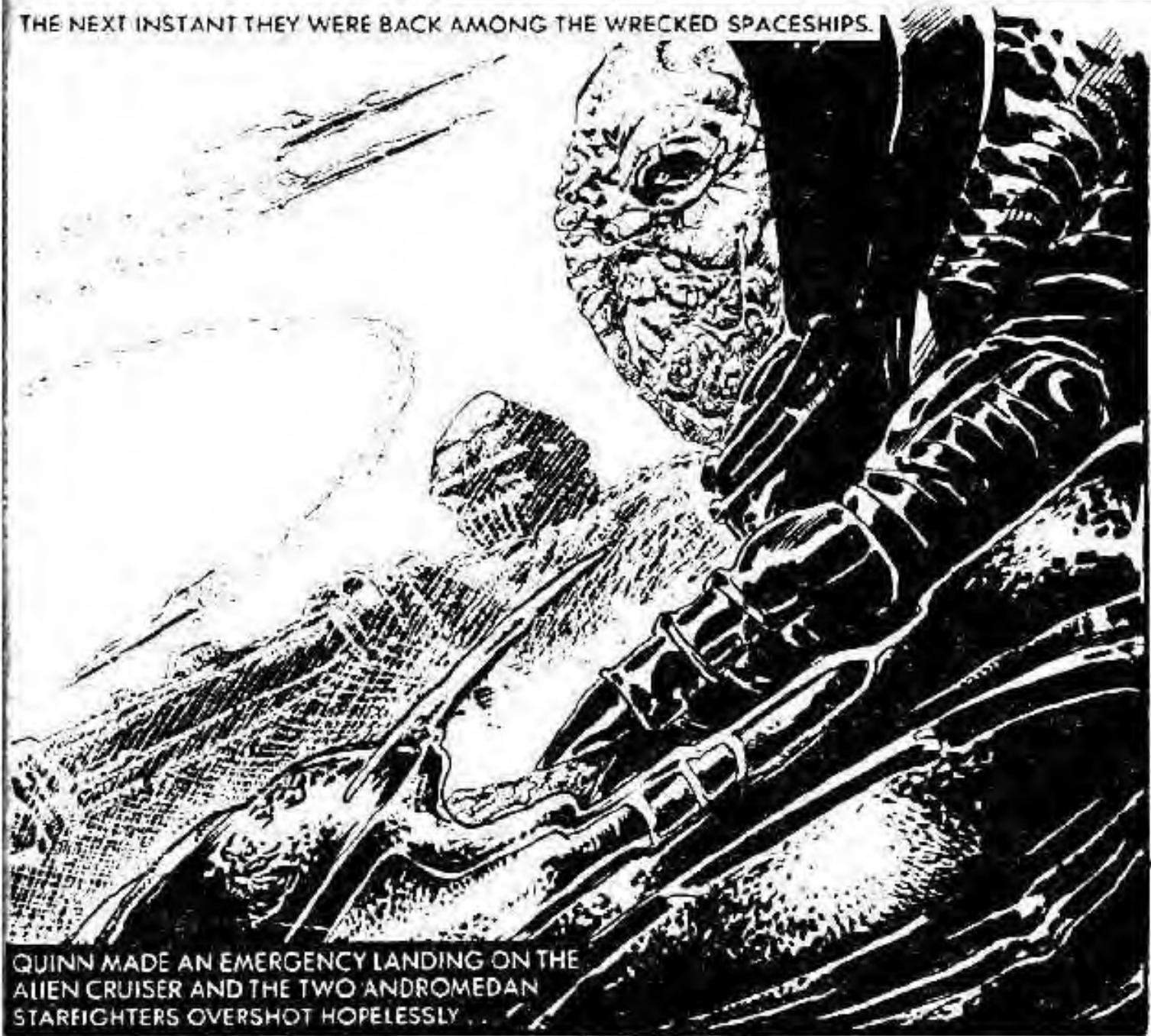




THE STARFIGHTERS SCREAMED INTO THE STAR CLUSTER.



THE NEXT INSTANT THEY WERE BACK AMONG THE WRECKED SPACESHIPS.



QUINN MADE AN EMERGENCY LANDING ON THE ALIEN CRUISER AND THE TWO ANDROMEDAN STARFIGHTERS OVERSHOT HOPELESSLY...





AT THAT MOMENT ABOARD THE ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP.



COMMANDER, OUR
SENSORS HAVE PICKED UP
TWO APPROACHING
FEDERATION BATTLESHIPS.

PREPARE TO ENGAGE IN BATTLE
ACTIVATE THE NEUTRALISING SHIELD.



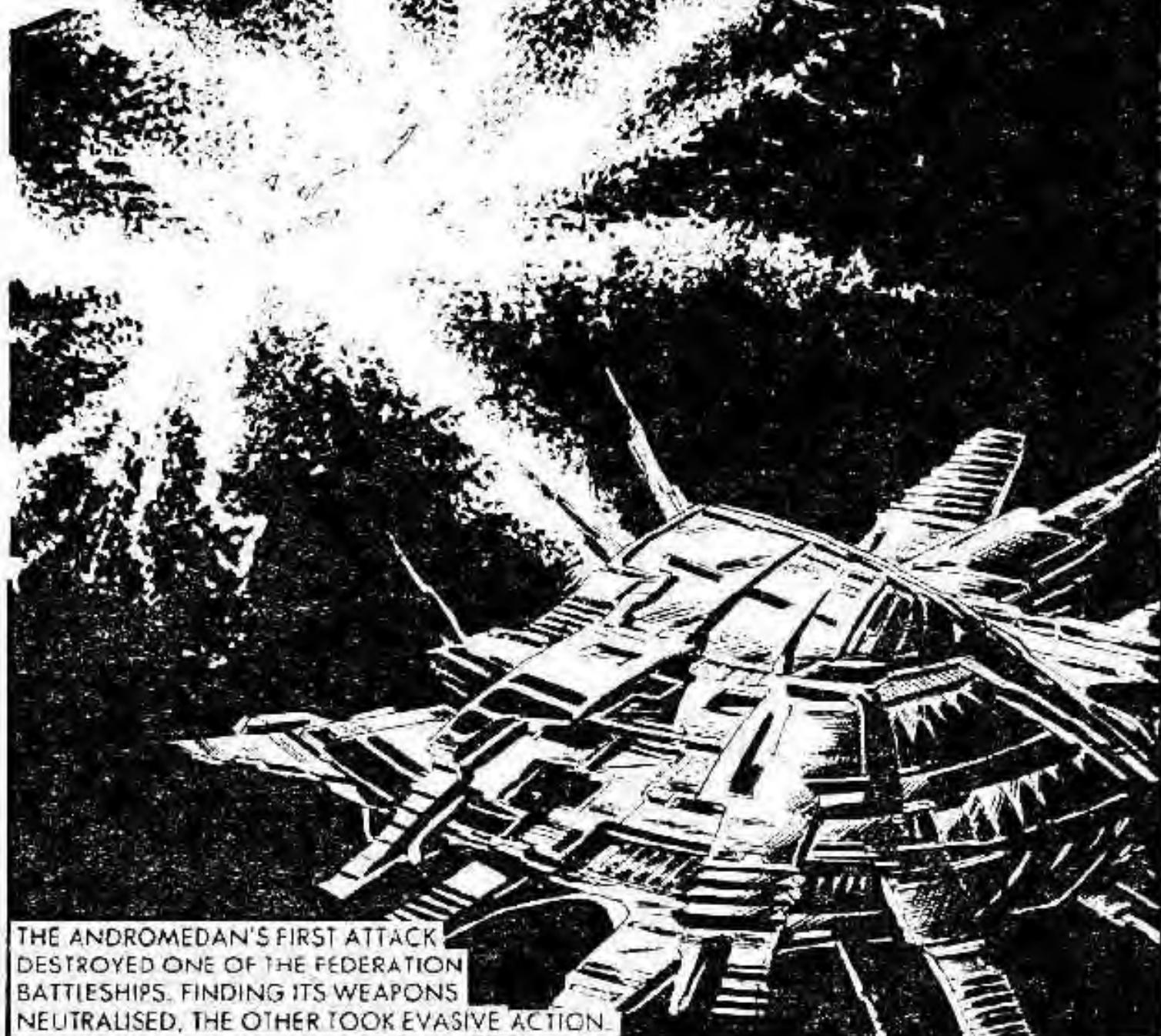
HE TOOK THEM DOWN TO THE STORE ROOM HE HAD FOUND EARLIER.



WHAT IS IT?

IT'S A THERMONUCLEAR WARHEAD
OF SOME KIND. HELP ME LIFT IT,
MOBCOM.

IN SPACE, A DEADLY BATTLE WAS IN PROGRESS



THE ANDROMEDAN'S FIRST ATTACK
DESTROYED ONE OF THE FEDERATION
BATTLESHIPS. FINDING ITS WEAPONS
NEUTRALISED, THE OTHER TOOK EVASIVE ACTION.

BACK IN THE CRUISER, QUINN AND MOBCOM HAD CARRIED THE WARHEAD TO THE PARTICLE TRANSMITTER.

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WHAT ARE YOU GOING TO DO?

I'M GOING TO USE THE PARTICLE TRANSMITTER TO PLACE THIS WARHEAD INSIDE THE ANDROMEDAN SHIP. ACTIVATE THAT VIDEOSCREEN, WILL YOU?

IF THE WARHEAD EXPLODES INSIDE THE WARSHIP, THE NEUTRALISING SHIELD SHOULD HAVE NO EFFECT ON IT...

QUINN SET THE CONTROLS AND JUMPED DOWN FROM THE PLATFORM.

THE WARHEAD DEMATERIALISED

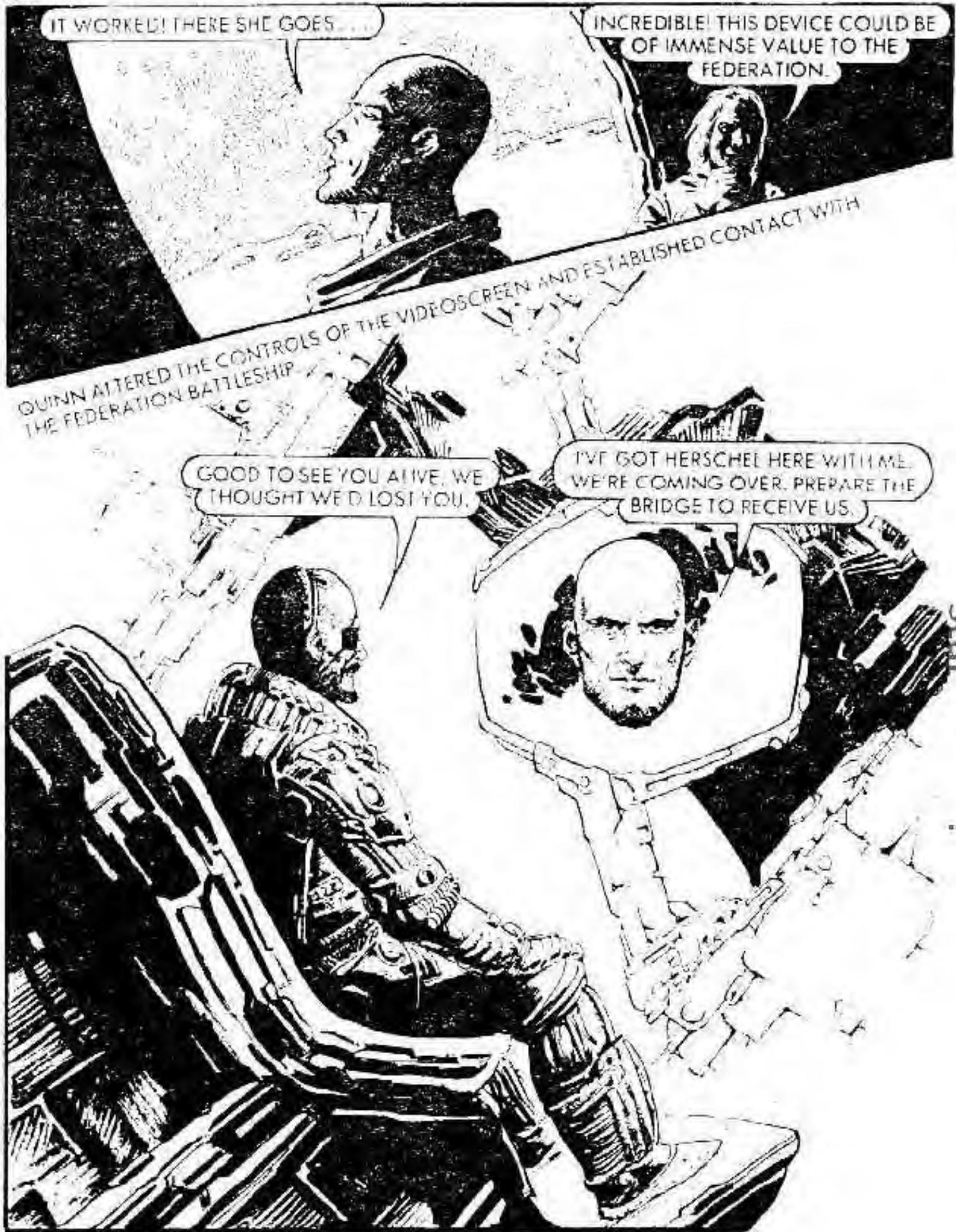


AT THAT PRECISE MOMENT, ABOARD THE ANDROMEDAN SHIP.



BUT THE WARHEAD MATERIALISED AND EXPLODED ABOARD THE ANDROMEDAN WARSHIP.







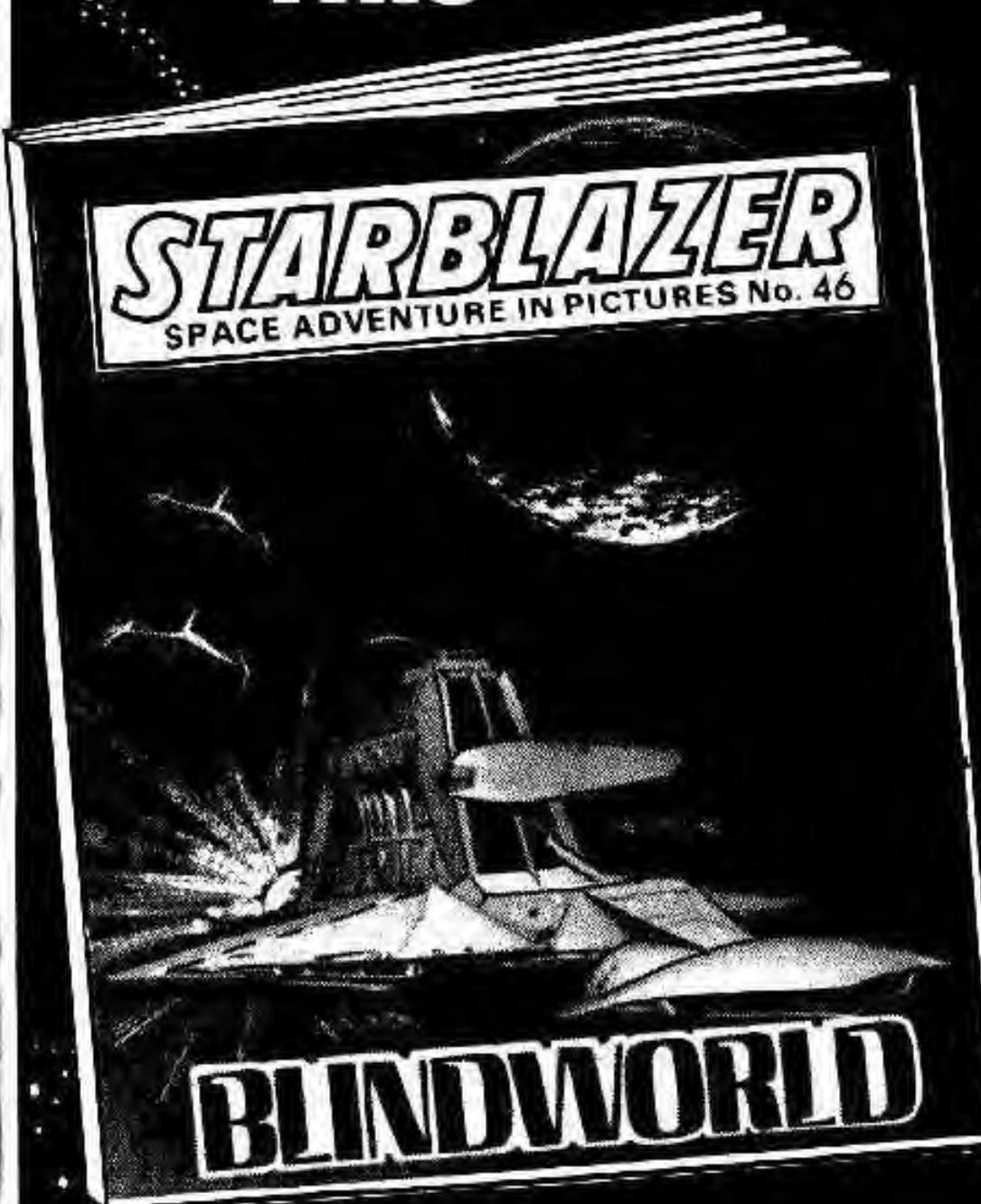
THE BRIDGE . . . BUT HOW?

YOU'LL SEE IN A FEW
SECONDS. QUINN OUT.

QUINN TOOK WITH HIM, NOT ONLY THE KNOWLEDGE OF HERSCHEL'S PROTOTYPE SHIELD, BUT ALSO THE SECRET OF THE ALIEN PARTICLE TRANSMITTER, A DEVICE THAT WOULD TIP THE SCALES OF WAR IN THE FAVOUR OF THE FEDERATION AND END THE THREAT OF THE ANDROMEDAN EMPIRE FOR GOOD.



NOW THAT YOU'VE READ
THIS



DON'T
FORGET
THAT
THERE'S
ANOTHER
ONE THIS
MONTH

IT'S ON SALE IN
YOUR NEWSAGENT'S NOW!



STARBLAZERS

IN THE CONQUEST OF SPACE 47

In August 1977 Voyagers I and II were launched on a trajectory to Jupiter and Saturn. Spectacular photos of Jupiter were obtained in 1979 and Saturn will be visited in 1981. In 1986 Voyager II will make the first visit to Uranus.